

End Racism Day

March 21st marks the commemoration of End Racism Day, officially observed since 1966 by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC) is leading the State's observance of "End Racism Day". It's a way to help our communities celebrate the differences in others.

At the opening of our lead event, South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner Raymond Buxton II read the signed proclamation by South Carolina's Governor Henry McMaster, naming March 21st as End Racism Day throughout the State.

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission held a panel discussion with the assistance of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Panelists included: President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League J.T. McLawhorn; Heavy Highway Contractor Ed Copeland; PASOs Midlands Program Coordinator Ana Pavon; Benedict College Political Science professor Dr. Amarjit Singh; University of South Carolina Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research Dr. Bobby Donaldson; Benedict College professor of Religion and Theology Rev. Dr. Harry H. Singleton III; and Executive Director of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council James McQuilla.

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Photo Credit: Johnathon P. Johnson

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50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act

The theme for this year's celebration is *The Fair Housing Act: 50 Years of Opening Doors*, which emphasizes the critical role the Fair Housing Act has played in giving every person an equal chance to obtain the housing of his or her choice. In 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the landmark bill into law, he said, "Fair Housing for all, all human beings who live in this country, is now a part of the American way of life."



<https://www.goodtreephotos.com>

All discriminatory policies and practices stain the very fabric of our nation, but HUD is especially focused on protecting the right of women to feel safe and secure in their homes, free from sexual harassment. HUD recently charged the owner and landlord of several rental properties in Wichita, Kansas, with discrimination for sexually harassing two female tenants. In that case, the property manager entered the apartment of one of the women uninvited, sexually harassed her, and requested that she consent to sex in exchange for her being allowed to stay in her unit.

Another form of discrimination HUD is particularly active in addressing is discrimination against families with children. The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination against families with children under the age of 18. This includes refusing to rent to a family with one or more children, charging different prices, imposing additional fees, or establishing different rules for families with children. SC Human Affairs Commission Housing Division Director Marvin Caldwell said, "Families should not have to narrow their options for housing just because they have children."

HUD also is devoting more energy to fighting the discrimination many persons with disabilities continue to face, especially discrimination against persons who require service or assistance animals. HUD charged the landlords of a rental home in Moore, Oklahoma, when they refused to let a veteran with disabilities keep his emotional support animal, even though the veteran had provided medical documentation proving that he needed the animal. The law is clear. Any person living with a disability that requires the use of a service or assistance animal has the right to that reasonable accommodation.

SCHAC enforces the South Carolina Fair Housing Law, which is substantially equivalent to HUD's Fair Housing Act. About 70% of SCHAC's Fair Housing cases were based on disability complaints. Most of the disability-based complaints are reasonable accommodation complaints. SCHAC has been able to successfully conciliate the majority of the cases based on assistance animals, once they obtain the facts and are able to verify that a disability exists and that the individual's requested accommodation is needed.

National Fair Housing Month



Richland County Community Development, along with Lexington County, City of Columbia, SC Human Affairs Commission, SC Appleseed Legal Justice, and others, are hosting an interactive community housing conference:

The 2nd Annual Civil Rights: It Still Matters
 “Making the American Dream a Reality for the Latino Community”
 Saturday, April 28, 2018, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
 Centro Cristiano, 2632 Decker Blvd.

The CRISM 2018 conference will attract more than 300 households of Latin origin to learn how to make the American Dream of homeownership a reality. The focus will be on housing, banking, and financial literacy, as well as fair and equal access to available resources. To register, go to: <https://crism2018daytwo.eventbrite.com>

Housing Division Travels Across the State

During National Fair Housing Month, the Housing Division is called upon to lend their expertise at numerous conferences. A partial list is below:

- ◆ City of Spartanburg - April 7th Neighborhood Conference - Don Frierson
- ◆ Greater Greenville Association of Realtors - April 17 - Marvin Caldwell
- ◆ Apartment Association of Greater Columbia - April 20 - Marvin Caldwell
- ◆ Greenville County Human Relations Commission - April 26 - Alex Nelson
- ◆ Richland County CRISM - April 27th and 28th
 - Luis Mendoza, Don Frierson, & Anita Dantzler
- ◆ Charleston Trident Urban League - Marvin Caldwell

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



Commissioner
Raymond Buxton, II

Si usted piensa que ha sido discriminado en la vivienda o en el empleo, debe ponerse en contacto con la Comisión de Asuntos Humanos. La Comisión investigará su queja y si hay una violación de la ley, la Comisión puede ayudarle a conseguir soluciones legales a los que usted tiene derecho. Si es necesario, la Comisión puede llevar casos de discriminación a una audiencia o a la corte. No importa su estado legal, la Comisión lo ayuda.

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and promote harmony and betterment in the lives of South Carolina’s residents.

Vision Statement

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission’s Vision is to be well known with a positive image and a mission that is understood and accepted by the public. SCHAC is a fully resourced, customer-friendly Agency with a diverse, well-trained and efficient team working together effectively in a safe and supportive work environment in fulfillment of the Agency’s mission.

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Photo Credit: Johnathon P. Johnson

Moderators were: Don Frierson, veteran radio talk show host and a SCHAC Housing Investigator; and Alicia Neaves, Weekend Anchor at WLTX TV.

Our partners also included:

The S.C. Department of Education invited all schools to participate in an activity to bring about unity. Activities held around the State included: book discussions, art contests, games from other cultures, etc.

The Nickelodeon Theatre held a panel discussion after a special presentation of the film “Get Out.” Director Jordan Peele became the third person, and first African American filmmaker, to earn Oscar nominations in the directing, original screenplay, and best picture categories for his first feature film. “Get Out” is a critical sensation and box office smash that uses the genre of the thriller for a smart and essential analysis of race in America.

Anita Dantzler & Lee Ann Rice ... **Co-Editors** Teresa McWilliams ... **Copy Editor**